



Re: Coal dust in Seward

Russ Maddox

to:

Evans, Wallace A \ (DEC\)

12/07/2012 08:43 AM

Cc:

John Pavitt

Hide Details

From: Russ Maddox <russmaddox@Exemption 6>

To: "Evans, Wallace A \ (DEC\)" <wallace.evans@alaska.gov>,

Cc: John Pavitt/R10/USEPA/US@EPA

Please respond to Russ Maddox <russmaddox@Exemption 6

Security:

To ensure privacy, images from remote sites were prevented from downloading. Show Images

Wally,

Call Ron Long the assistant city manager or Mack Funk the harbor master and ask them if coal dust is and has been a problem in the harbor for the last couple weeks continuing to this moment. The simple fact that Aurora is now cleaning the coal dust off of tank surface is revealing. By their actions they know there is offsite fallout but they tell you otherwise. They are well aware that the boats in the harbor have coal dust all over them. And that was not steam. It appears reddish brown when the sun hits it. Nowhere near dewpoint so we all know better. The mister has not been running on the stacker reclaimer in spite of dry windy conditions. I am attaching an article from Canada that features an image of what "reasonable precautions" look like. Their spray masts automatically come on and stay on if the wind moves or humidity drops to prevent coal dust escapement. We have a LONG ways to go.

Thanks. Russ

<http://www.nsnews.com/technology/Climate+group+targets+coal+terminal/7665527/story.html>

Climate group targets NV coal terminal

By Jane Seyd, North Shore News December 7, 2012 6:34 AM

Read more: <http://www.nsnews.com/technology/Climate+group+targets+coal+terminal/7665527/story.html#ixzz2ENpWbFqi>



COAL is moved through Neptune Terminals on the North Vancouver waterfront. Activists are opposing proposed upgrades to the facility, saying they will help accelerate climate change.

Photograph by: NEWS photo , Mike Wakefield

A group of climate change activists is taking aim at proposals to increase coal exports from B.C. - including an expansion project at North Vancouver's Neptune

Terminals.

In a letter that went out this week, the group called on Port Metro Vancouver to delay approvals on two coal terminal expansions. The projects include a new coal port at Fraser Surrey Docks, which would export U.S. coal, and an expansion plan at Neptune which would increase the terminal's export of metallurgical coal from eight million tonnes annually to 18 million.

The letter is signed by climate activists from both Canada and the U.S., including Andrew Weaver and Mark Jaccard, who are both members of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

Kevin Washbrook, a director of Voters Taking Action on Climate Change, an organization involved in distributing the letter, said the activists are targeting the port because "We really are running out of time in terms of dealing with climate change. . . . At some point somebody's got to take responsibility for this."

Washbrook said if the projects are approved, Port Metro Vancouver will be "exporting more coal than anywhere else in North America." Last year, Lower Mainland port terminals collectively shipped about 31 million tonnes of coal.

Coal is one of the "dirtiest fossil fuels on the planet," said Washbrook. "We're not going to solve it by passing the buck.

We can't wait for other countries to do the right thing."

Neptune Terminals has two proposals being reviewed by Port Metro Vancouver that would increase coal-handling capacity. The first involves replacing a large piece of equipment called a stacker-reclaimer with a more modern version. The second proposal involves adding other equipment, including a railcar dumper and conveyors, so that trains can be unloaded faster. The increased capacity would mean one additional train of coal per day would be unloaded and one more ship per week would be loaded at Neptune.

Washbrook said it's disconcerting that Port Metro Vancouver will make decisions on projects with such a large environmental impact with relatively little public comment.

Patricia MacNeil, project communications advisor for the port, said Neptune has hosted meetings and open houses on its expansion plans and sent flyers to the neighbouring community.

All projects involve an environmental assessment, said MacNeil. But she said it isn't in the port's mandate to examine the wider environmental impacts of the products being shipped. "Our mandate is to facilitate Canadian trade," she said.

Barbara Joy-Kinsella, media relations advisor for the port, echoed those comments, saying if the climate activists want to address wider issues, "They'll have to take that conversation to the federal government."

Jim Belsheim, president of Neptune Terminals, responded to the climate activists in an email, pointing out that the coal Neptune handles is primarily used in steelmaking, not for electricity production. Steelmaking coal is vital in building everything from rapid transit to buildings to household appliances, Belsheim said. Most of Neptune's coal is shipped to steel mills in Asia.

But Washbrook said carbon from metallurgical coal is still released into the atmosphere. "Just because it's used to make steel doesn't give us a free pass," he said. "Nobody in government knows what that coal is used for and they don't care."


In his statement, Belsheim pointed to Neptune's importance to the economy. If the coal projects go ahead, the company will have invested about \$400 million in terminal upgrades - including expansion of its potash handling capacity - since 2009, he said. Belsheim said those improvements will create 185 permanent new jobs.


isevd@nsnews.com


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Read more: <http://www.nsnews.com/technology/Climate+group+targets+coal+terminal/7665527/story.html#ixzz2ENpH9l00>


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Weather observations for the next three days


NWS logo

Seward Airport



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Date	Time (akst)	Wind (mph)	Vis. (mi.)	Weather	Sky Cond.	Temperature (°F)		Pressure		Precipitation (in.)				
						Air	Dwpt	6 hour Max.	6 hour Min.	altimeter (in.)	sea level (mb)	1 hr	3 hr	6 hr
07	07:53	N 20 G 29	10.00	Fair	CLR	15	8			29.82	1009.8			
07	06:53	N 18 G 26	10.00	Fair	CLR	15	8			29.82	1009.7			
07	05:53	N 22 G 28	10.00	Fair and Breezy	CLR	14	8			29.81	1009.4			

07	04:53	N 18 G 29	10.00 Fair	CLR	14	8			29.81	1009.5
07	03:53	N 22 G 29	10.00 Fair and Breezy	CLR	14	7			29.82	1009.7
07	02:53	N 16 G 25	10.00 Fair	CLR	14	7	16	14	29.82	1009.9
07	01:53	N 20 G 29	10.00 Fair	CLR	16	6			29.82	1009.7
07	00:53	N 18 G 26	10.00 Fair	CLR	16	6			29.82	1009.7
06	23:53	N 17 G 30	10.00 Fair	CLR	15	6			29.82	1009.6
06	22:53	N 18 G 25	10.00 Fair	CLR	15	6			29.81	1009.6
06	21:53	N 18 G 28	10.00 Fair	CLR	15	4			29.81	1009.4
06	20:53	N 17 G 23	10.00 Fair	CLR	14	3	18	13	29.80	1008.9
06	19:53	N 17 G 30	10.00 Fair	CLR	14	2			29.78	1008.6
06	18:53	N 18 G 26	10.00 Fair	CLR	14	3			29.77	1008.2
06	17:53	N 18 G 28	10.00 Fair	CLR	16	4			29.76	1007.7
06	16:53	N 14 G 25	10.00 Fair	CLR	17	5			29.75	1007.3
06	15:53	N 25 G 32	10.00 Fair and Breezy	CLR	17	2			29.73	1006.6
06	14:53	N 17 G 28	10.00 Fair	CLR	17	2	18	13	29.72	1006.3
06	13:53	N 16 G 25	10.00 Fair	CLR	18	2			29.69	1005.5
06	12:53	N 17 G 23	10.00 Fair	CLR	16	3			29.68	1005.1
06	11:53	N 21 G 30	10.00 Fair and Breezy	CLR	16	3			29.65	1004.0
06	10:53	N 22 G 30	10.00 Fair and Breezy	CLR	14	2			29.63	1003.4
06	09:53	N 22 G 33	10.00 Fair and Breezy	CLR	15	3			29.60	1002.3
06	08:53	N 26 G 37	10.00 Overcast and Windy	OVC060	15	3	16	12	29.57	1001.5
06	07:53	N 29 G 40	10.00 Overcast and Windy	BKN050 OVC065	15	3			29.55	1000.5

06	06:53	N 26 G 40	10.00	Fair and Windy	CLR	13	1			29.53	1000.0
06	05:53	N 24 G 38	10.00	A Few Clouds and Breezy	FEW044	15	5			29.52	999.6
06	04:53	N 21 G 36	10.00	Overcast and Breezy	BKN050 OVC070	14	3			29.52	999.5
06	03:53	N 23 G 38	10.00	Mostly Cloudy and Breezy	FEW060 BKN110	14	3			29.50	998.9
06	02:53	N 28 G 38	10.00	Fair and Windy	CLR	12	2	13	9	29.49	998.7
06	01:53	N 23 G 35	10.00	Fair and Breezy	CLR	12	1			29.49	998.7
06	00:53	N 25 G 35	10.00	Mostly Cloudy and Breezy	BKN070	12	1			29.49	998.5
05	23:53	N 20 G 35	10.00	Overcast	OVC065	11	-0			29.49	998.4
05	22:53	N 21 G 32	10.00	Mostly Cloudy and Breezy	BKN065	10	-0			29.47	997.9
05	21:53	N 22 G 33	10.00	Overcast and Breezy	OVC090	10	-0			29.46	997.7
05	20:53	N 25 G 35	10.00	Overcast and Breezy	OVC100	10	-1	12	8	29.46	997.4
05	19:53	N 23 G 38	10.00	Partly Cloudy and Breezy	SCT110	11	-0			29.45	997.1
05	18:53	N 22 G 39	10.00	A Few Clouds and Breezy	FEW120	11	-1			29.44	997.0
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05	14:53	N 22	10.00	Fair and	CLR	9	-2	11	7	29.44	997.0

		G 31		Breezy								
05	13:53	N 17 G 24	10.00	Fair	CLR	10	-2				29.45	997.3
05	12:53	N 16 G 28	10.00	Fair	CLR	9	-3				29.46	997.4
05	11:53	N 22 G 33	10.00	Fair and Breezy	CLR	10	-3				29.45	997.2
05	10:53	N 21 G 29	10.00	Fair and Breezy	CLR	8	-2				29.46	997.6
05	09:53	N 13 G 23	10.00	Fair	CLR	8	-2				29.47	998.0
05	08:53	N 17 G 25	10.00	Fair	CLR	7	-2	8	6		29.46	997.6
05	07:53	N 25 G 37	10.00	Fair and Breezy	CLR	8	-3				29.44	997.1
05	06:53	N 18 G 30	10.00	Fair	CLR	7	-4				29.44	996.8
05	05:53	N 17 G 26	10.00	Fair	CLR	7	-3				29.43	996.7
05	04:53	N 21 G 32	10.00	Fair and Breezy	CLR	7	-3				29.44	996.8
05	03:53	N 25 G 39	10.00	Fair and Breezy	CLR	7	-4				29.43	996.6
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04	20:53	N 29 G 45	10.00	Fair and Windy	CLR	6	-6	9	6		29.38	994.8
04	19:53	N 28 G 43	10.00	Fair and Windy	CLR	6	-6				29.37	994.7
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04	15:53	N 31 G 44	10.00	Fair and Windy	CLR	7	-6			29.36	994.1
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04	13:53	N 29 G 43	10.00	Fair and Windy	CLR	9	-6			29.35	993.8
04	12:53	N 31 G 45	10.00	Fair and Windy	CLR	9	-6			29.36	994.3
04	11:53	N 28 G 46	10.00	Fair and Windy	CLR	9	-6			29.37	994.6
04	10:53	N 28 G 40	10.00	Fair and Windy	CLR	8	-6			29.38	994.8
04	09:53	N 30 G 40	10.00	Fair and Windy	CLR	8	-5			29.37	994.7
04	08:53	N 28 G 44	10.00	Fair and Windy	CLR	8	-5	12	8	29.37	994.7

Date	Time (akst)	Wind (mph)	Vis. (mi.)	Weather	Sky Cond.	Air	Dwpt	Max.	Min.	altimeter (in.)	sea level (mb)	1 hr	3 hr	6 hr
						Temperature (°F)			Pressure					

National Weather Service
Southern Region Headquarters
Fort Worth, Texas
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Last Modified: June 14, 2005

From: "Evans, Wallace A (DEC)" <wallace.evans@alaska.gov>
To: 'Russ Maddox' <russtmaddox@Exemption 6>
Sent: Friday, December 7, 2012 8:29 AM
Subject: RE: Coal dust in Seward

Mr. Maddox, I appreciate your concern with the Seward Coal loading area, I have been in contact with the operators and there is conflicting information. They also provided me with documentation of wind speed (Maximum of 17mph per their records) , dust precautions in place(spray bars operational), records and visual determination observation records and they all indicate, little to no dust present. It appears what you are pointing out in the loading pictures is steam off the coal. All precautions are in place as the operation is ongoing. I have put your complaint with the others and will brief the Director on the situation. Thank you for your time

Wally Evans
Dept. of Environmental Conservation
Air Permits Program Compliance Section
Anchorage Office Supervisor
Anchorage, AK 99501
907-269-7562
(fax) 907-269-7508
Wallace.Evans@alaska.gov

From: Russ Maddox [<mailto:russtmaddox@Exemption 6>]

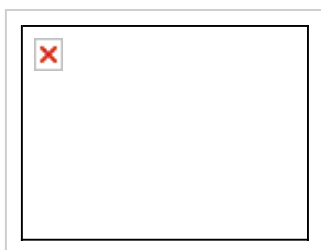
Sent: Thursday, December 06, 2012 11:30 AM
To: wally.evans@alaska.gov; Evans, Wallace A (DEC)
Subject: Coal dust in Seward

Hi Wally,

The dry windy conditions continue. They appeared to wait before unloading railcars and the ship for a day but they have now commenced unloading railcars and loading the ship in spite of continuing conditions. For the first time in a while there is no evidence of the mister or spraybars running. Perhaps due to the cold? Coal dust is visibly leaving the facility from one end to the other. It is most visibly pouring from the ship hold and the loader above in the morning sun. As you know I have been capturing images of coal dust in the recycling shed in the harbor. Somehow Aurora and the RR found out and now a guy from Aurora drives over there a few times a day and cleans the coal dust off of the surface of the white used oil and antifreeze collection tanks where it accumulates when the north wind blows whether they are moving coal or not. There is coal dust visible all the way from the full waiting railcars to Lowell Point blowing over town.

Thanks, Russ

You are invited to view sweeper07's photo album: [Coal dust in harbor and from ship loading 12 6 2012.jpg](#)



Coal dust in harbor and from ship loading 12 6 2012.jpg

Dec 6, 2011
by sweeper07

[View Album](#)

[Play slideshow](#)

If you are having problems viewing this email, copy and paste the following into your browser:

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For further information, please contact the EPA Call Center at

(866) 411-4EPA (4372). The TDD number is (866) 489-4900.

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